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Two more of Sen. Gilbert's bills signed into law

LANSING – Possession of a Molotov cocktail will now be a felony under legislation signed into law Monday, announced Sen. Jud Gilbert, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 1287, now Public Act 523, amends the Michigan penal code to add prosecution of individuals who manufacture, sell, buy, or posses these weapons without requiring proof of intent to frighten, terrorize, injure or kill a person or damage property.

A Molotov cocktail has been defined in the legislation as a makeshift incendiary device constructed from a bottle or other container filled with a flammable or combustible material or substance and that has a wick, fuse, or other device designed or intended to ignite the contents when thrown or placed near a target.

“I’m glad to see this bill signed to ensure proper punishment for possessing these hazardous devices,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “Prosecutors should not need proof of destruction when someone has one of these in their possession. There’s no other reason for having this device other than to do harm to someone or something.”

Additionally, Gilbert’s bill, Senate Bill 1383, also was signed into law.

SB 1383, now PA 516, clarifies the cap on the amount of real or personal property that can be purchased by a county road commission. It increases the amounts road commissions can make emergency purchases for without going through the sealed bid process.

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